



ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN COOPERATORS

World Council

World Executive Secretary

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Dear Salesian Cooperators,

It is with deep emotion that I am sending you this first letter. I do hope that it reaches each and every cooperator at all the local centers who are, in fact, the spiritual force, the real strength, the concrete reality of our Association.

Our 4th World Congress has just ended and it has left some critical moments to envision the Association into the future. First of all, the improvements of the Statutes of our Project of Apostolic Life, which were unanimously approved by the assembly and supported with a long applause. Second, the constant presence of the Rector Major at the Salesianum Auditorium, his active participation in the discussion and approval of each article, and his final statement of approval which was the culmination of a long, thoughtful, loving process involving the participation of all of us at all latitudes.

The warmth of about 250 official participants from all provinces, the sense of friendship and the spirit of sharing were the cornerstones of these four intense and unforgettable days.

The Rector Major has portrayed the profile of the new Salesian Cooperator, that a true Salesian lay person who must bring into society the social and pedagogical insights of our founder, revisited in light of the current needs of a multiethnic, multicultural society, very often undermined by the dangers of subjectivism and rampant relativism. He has strongly invited us, therefore, to leave comfortable positions, to leave "the sacristy," as Fr Pascual Chavez Villanueva said, to meet the new socio-political and cultural realities. He has urged us to deal with the challenges of the new evangelization, with renewed strength and enthusiasm to be more and more active leaders in the Church.

The children of today, like those of Don Bosco in the nineteenth century, are waiting to be understood, supported, sustained and especially loved by their well prepared educators, who are authentic in their testimony of Christian life.

I'm sure that our PAL, our practical tool, will help us to walk together with young people the path that leads to holiness!

Let me conclude with a heartfelt thanks to all the participants who, through their daily prayers, their commitment, their joyful and active participation made possible the success of the World Congress. A very

special thanks to my dear SDB and FMA Delegates who have supported us all by fully sharing in the commitment and enthusiasm.

The Association now expects to make this our first priority: to study, to learn and meditate on the text of the PAL so that it becomes for each cooperator a way of life, of relationship, of action, of prayer, and with the help of Mary Help of Christians to realize the "dream" that the our beloved father and teacher had for all cooperators:

" The Association of Salesian Cooperators is made to shake the languor in which many Christians lie and spread the energy of love"*

May Mary Help of Christians be our guide and teacher in our journey together.

Fraternally in Don Bosco.

Noemi Bertola
ASC World Coordinator

*Languor: Inactivity, Decline, Sluggishness